

Statement by Adviser Ms. Moon Young KIM

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

**Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission
(Agenda Item 79)**

Sixth Committee, 76th Session of the UNGA

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Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports (A/76/205, 208) on "Criminal Accountability of the United Nations Officials and Experts on Mission," which provide a solid basis for our discussions. Furthermore, we commend the Secretary-General's recommendation that Member States should encourage the legislative bodies of the UN system to ensure the coherence and coordination of policies and procedures for the reporting, investigation, referral, and follow-up of credible criminal allegations relating to UN officials or experts on mission.

While my delegation recognizes the valuable contribution of UN officials and experts to the fulfillment of the mandate of the UN, we firmly believe that any criminal activity by persons abusing their status as UN officials or experts and their privileges and immunities simply cannot be tolerated.

Such activities not only tarnish the reputation and credibility of the UN, but could also seriously jeopardize the operations of the missions as they are likely to discourage the local authorities and populations from cooperating with the UN.

As such, crimes committed by UN officials and experts should not go unpunished. The State of nationality should take all appropriate measures, including (1) establishing the relevant jurisdiction to ensure that perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice, (2) investigating and prosecuting alleged crimes in a timely manner, and (3) cooperating with UN and appropriate local authorities to effectively address this serious problem.

Among the various types of crimes, sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel is particularly deplorable as it victimizes the same vulnerable groups that UN personnel are meant to serve and protect. In this regard, we reaffirm our full support for the zero-tolerance policy of the UN on sexual exploitation and abuse by UN officials and experts.

Mr./Madam Chair,

While ending impunity is important in terms of delivering justice to victims, my delegation would also like to highlight the significance of prevention of crimes through practical pre-deployment trainings and vetting measures. In this context, my delegation would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to strengthen the measures through technical enhancement, including the use of the ClearCheck database to record substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.

As a troop contributing State to peacekeeping missions, the Republic of Korea provides an intensive training course for those who are to be deployed in the missions. They are chosen through an extremely rigorous process among many eligible military personnel and are given instructions in the necessary professional ethics standards. We believe such pre-deployment trainings have contributed to the fact that no crimes of a serious nature have been committed by Korean nationals while serving as UN

personnel.

Lastly, my delegation is of the view that it is time to renew our collective resolve to ensure criminal accountability and ultimately prevent all crimes by the United Nations officials and experts on mission. We look forward to continued engagement on this important topic.

Thank you.